

I am in favor of open debate. Sinclair Broadcasting supports democratic participation only if it airs a pro-Kerry and a con-Kerry back-to-back, followed by a debate or commentary from real backers or detractors. This would be similar to the election pamphlets we all receive with our sample ballot: pro, con, and rebuttal from both sides.

Sinclair Broadcasting cannot speak for the people, but this corporation is attempting to supercede the rights of individuals, right before this very close election by forcing broadcast of partisan programming. Not only does it force preemption on local stations regardless of local concerns, it also breaks the law concerning "equal time".

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. In allowing concentration of media control, the FCC has not recently shown the leadership needed to strengthen democracy, and therefore Sinclair has the nerve to push this forward.

Now is the FCC's chance to enforce fairness and balance, since Sinclair does not have the philosophical and ethical fortitude to do so on its own.

Mr. Michael Powell--Can this be the result you had in mind in your pro-active support for consolidation of the mass media? This time you must take your work seriously on behalf of all the people in the United States, not only our corporate "citizens" who now have won more rights at the expense of regional and individual expression.